

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-6 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

With this Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner also returns a signed and initialed copy of the PTO form submitted with the ISR on April 10, 2006, indicating that the references listed therein have been considered.

Amendments to the Specification

With this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification in order to correct minor informalities and typographical errors. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments and Cancellations

With this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled and claims 1 and 4-6 are amended. All claim amendments are fully supported in the originally-filed specification. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Prior Art

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Kondo (U.S. Publication 2000-241197). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

According to Kondo, as shown in Kondo Figure 5, a rotational direction or a FAIL is determined based on a series of conditions. The use of the series of conditions increases processing time. For example, first three conditions are determined: is there any change in the signal? (S12); is there a change in a plurality of signals? (S14); and are all signals "H" or "L"?

(S16). Only then can the rotational direction be determined based on an additional three conditional sentences (once for X, and twice for Y). If any one of these six conditional sentences is missing, the determination can not be made.

On the other hand, according to the present invention, as claimed, a state function is calculated repeatedly at a predetermined time interval based on a binary output of each of a plurality of sensors, and the rotational direction of clockwise, counterclockwise, or stop is determined based on a judgment table.

Thus, according to the present invention, the processing time is shortened.

Clearly, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Kondo of a determination of a rotational direction based on a judgment table.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Kondo and that claims 4-6 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

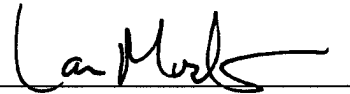
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 10/575,255

Q94349

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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